

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 NIC-01 SY-04 A-01 OPR-02 SCS-03

SCA-01 SCCT-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NASA-04 EUR-25 USSS-00 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01

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P 311314Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6303

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0754

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SCUL, MA, US

SUBJECT: TROUBLES AT UNIVERSITY OF MADAGASCAR; IMPLICATIONS  
FOR CU PROJECT SEND AMERICAN PROFESSOR.

BEGIN SUMMARY: STUDENT RADICALS AT UNIVERSITY OF  
MADAGASCAR, LED BY SON OF FAMOUS MAOIST LEADER MANANDAFY  
RAKOTONIRINA, HAVE SUCCEEDED IN GETTING CANCELLATION MOST OF  
AMERICAN GUEST PROFESSOR ROBERT BAUER'S SERIES OF LECTURES  
SCHEDULED THROUGHOUT WEEK. SINCE QUESTION ARISES WHETHER CU-  
SPONSORED REGULAR AMERICAN PROFESSOR BRANCACCIO WILL BE ABLE  
CARRY ON COURSES FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL IN JULY, EMBASSY HAS TOLD  
FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT GOMR'S ASSURANCE HE CAN DO SO WILL BE  
NECESSARY BEFORE HE CAN COME. ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN AT  
UNIVERSITY IS SYMPTOM OF VERY RECENT REBIRTH STUDENT POLITICAL  
ACTIVISM WHICH HAD BEEN DORMANT FOR OVER ONE YEAR. END  
SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING INCIDENTS DESCRIBED BELOW AND MAY 31 MADAGASCAR  
MATIN PAGE ONE ARTICLE RELATING THERETO, DCM MENTIONED TO MINIS-  
TRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY GENERAL BEZAZA THAT THE USG  
WOULD NEED AN ASSURANCE FROM GOMR THAT AMERICAN PROFESSOR  
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BRANCACCIO, SCHEDULED ARRIVE JULY, WOULD NOT BE IMPEDED FROM

CARRYING ON REGULAR CLASSES AT UNIVERSITY OF MADAGASCAR. WITHOUT SUCH GUARANTEE, AT LEAST ORAL, EMBASSY COULD NOT IN FAIRNESS TO BRANCACCIO OR IN LIGHT TIGHT BUDGETARY SITUATION, RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT SEND SUCH PROFESSOR. BEAZA PROMISED GET COMPLETE REPORT ON INCIDENTS AND DISCUSS WITH COMPETENT OFFICIALS IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND OTHER MINISTRIES WHETHER OR NOT GOMR COULD GIVE SUCH GUARANTEE. DCM EXPLAINED TIME OF ESSENCE SINCE BRANCACCIO IS ON POINT OF PACKING BAGS TO COME MADAGASCAR AND FINAL  
USG DECISION MUST BE REACHED BEFORE END  
FY ON JUNE 30. BEAZA AGREED THAT REPEATED STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS OVER PRESENCE AMERICAN PROFESSOR, PARTICULARLY IF UNIVERSITY THROWN INTO EVEN FURTHER TURMOIL, WOULD NOT SERVE EITHER USG OR GOMR DESIRE TO CONTINUE IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS. MEETING, WHICH HAD BEEN ARRANGED PRIMARILY FOR VISITING DESK OFFICER BRESLER TO MAKE COURTESY CALL, WAS CORDIAL THROUGHOUT. BRNGING UP INCIDENTS AND NEED FOR GOMR GUARANTEE FOLLOWED NICELY BEAZA'S POINT THAT RICH NATIONS MUST HELP POORER ONES.

2. TROUBLE FIRST AROSE ON MAY 28 WHEN SMALL NUMBER OF STUDENTS AT U OF M LAW SCHOOL HECKLED VISITING PROFESSOR ROBERT BAUER WITH OVERLY POLEMICAL QUESTIONS DESPITE ATTEMPTS OF MAJORITY OF STUDENTS ATTENDING BAUER LECTURE TO HUSH THEM. MALAGASY PROFESSOR IN CHARGE OF CLASS FINALLY FELT COMPELLED BRING MEETING TO END. ACTING DEAN LAW SCHOOL CALLED PAO LATER SAME DAY TO REQUEST THAT AFTERNOON LECTURE BE CALLED OFF IN LIGHT OF STUDENT EFFERVESCENCE, AND SUBSEQUENTLY LECTURES SCHEDULED FOR AFTERNOONS MAY 30 AND 31 HAVE BOTH BEEN CANCELLED AT REQUEST BOTH ACTING DEAN OF LAW FACULTY AND DIRECTOR OF MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT. LAST REQUEST CAME IN AS THIS TELEGRAM BEING DRAFTED. DIRECTOR MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT HAD JUST BEEN TELEPHONED BY DELEGATION OF RADICAL STUDENTS THREATENING TO RIOT IF MAY 31 LECTURE HELD, AND HE FELT HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO BOW TO THEIR DEMANDS. TROUBLE HAS, THEREFORE, SPREAD TO SECTION OF UNIVERSITY WHERE BRANCACCIO WOULD BE TEACHING.

3. THROUGHOUT PERIOD BEGINNING MORNING MAY 28, RADICAL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTING TRACTS IN BOTH FRENCH AND MALAGASY LANGUAGE TITLED, "STOP THE AMERICAN ESCALATION."  
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THEME IS THAT AMERICANS, HAVING DROPPED DIEGO GARCIA PROJECT FOR TIME BEING, HAVE CHOSEN UNIVERSITY OF MADAGASCAR LAW SCHOOL AS THEIR IMPERIALIST BRIDGEHEAD. ENDS WITH APPEAL TO "BARRICADE THE ROAD TO KISSINGER'S EMISSARIES, REJECT AMERICAN IMPERIALISM, REJECT ALL ITS LOCAL PUPPETS, ALL UNITED, (LET'S PUSH) THE AMERICANS OUT."

4. ACCORDING TO MADMATIN ARTICLE MENTIONED PARA 1, ADDITION-

AL TRACTS DENOUNCE LAW SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION FOR BOOTLICKING AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL SINS. ARTICLE ENDS WITH STATEMENT THAT ACTING DEAN LAW SCHOOL HAS SAID HE WILL CALL A MEETING IMMEDIATELY OF DIRECTING COMMITTEE IN ORDER TO LOOK INTO AFFAIR CLOSELY AND THAT LAW SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL ISSUE PRESS COMMUNIQUE.

IT ALSO NOTES LAW SCHOOL DEAN WILLY LEONARD IS PRESENTLY IN U.S. (UNDER CU GRANT).

5. TWO WELL-INFORMED SOURCES ARE POSITIVE THAT STUDENT SON OF MAOIST LEADER AND MFM PARTY HEAD MANADAFY RAKOTONIRINA IS INSTIGATOR CURRENT INCIDENTS. THESE FALL, NEVERTHELESS, WITHIN FRAMEWORK RECRUDESCENCE STUDENT POLITICAL ACTIVISM AT UNIVERSITY DURING PAST MONTH FOLLOWING QUIT PERIOD LASTING SOMEWHAT OVER ON YEAR. RECENTLY PARTY LEADERS HAVE BEEN INVITED BY STUDENT BODY ORGANIZATION TO ADDRESS THEM. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT PRO-SOVIET AKFM PARTY LEADER RICHARD ANDRIAMANJATO WAS SEVERELY BOOED BY STUDENTS DURING HIS PRESENTATION, PRINCIPALLY FROM THE MAOISTS AMONG THEM BUT ALSO FROM STUDENTS TO THE RIGHT. UNTIL EVENTS OF THIS WEEK, USIS HAM HAD NO TROUBLE WHATSOEVER ARRANGING LECTURES FOR AMERICAN GUEST PROFESSORS, AND PAO'S WIFE HAS BEEN TEACHING ENGLISH IN MODERN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT WITHOUT SLIGHTEST MANIFESTATION OF ANTI-AMERICANISM TOWARDS HER.

6. DIRECTOR MODERN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT IS DISTRESSED BY TURN OF EVENTS AND HAS ALREADY RAISED PROBLEM OF BRINGING BRANCACCIO TO TANANARIVE WITH UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES. HE PARTICULARLY FURIOUS SINCE BAUER LECTURE WAS PART OF REGULAR COURSE, AND HE FEELS ABILITY TO DIRECT DEPARTMENT UNTENABLE UNLESS UNIVERSITY WILLING TO STAND UP TO UNREASONABLE STUDENT DEMANDS AFFECTING CURRICULUM. HE VOLUNTEERED TO PAO THAT, IF UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION IS UNWILLING TO GUARANTEE BRANCACCIO WILL BE ABLE DELIVER COURSES, HE WILL TELL UNIVERSITY RECTOR AND DEAN SCHOOL OF LETTERS

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THAT HE RESIGNING AND CLOSING DEPARTMENT MODERN LANGUAGES. HIS DEPARTURE WOULD UNQUESTIONABLE HAVE THAT EFFECT, AND EMBASSY BELIEVES HE MAY VERY WELL HAVE COURAGE TO CARRY OUT THREAT.

MENDENHALL

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